



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

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## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Trucklot trading was light with most traders watching further market developments. Trade sentiment was reported as generally steady in the major terminal markets. Retail demand was seasonally light with overall movement down. Interest usually centered on other holiday items. Food service business was light to good with best movement noted into fast food channels especially in the Southern region. Supplies were reported as in balance too fully sufficient for current inquiry. In the parts structure, demand for breast and wings was light, about moderate on other items. Most items were adequate for requirements at near unchanged price levels. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were mixed, but mostly desirable.

**GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES** The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading remains unchanged at 58.50 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 64.00 cents last year on the 23rd of December, 1998.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

### DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)

BREASTS - B/S	136.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	70.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	72.00
LEG QUARTERS	20.00
WINGS	77.00

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

### CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

15 STATES			PERCENT CHANGE
WEEK ENDING 12/18/99	1999	1998	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	182,162	180,235	+01
CHICKS PLACED	144,944	143,605	+01

### Broiler Eggs Set In 15 Selected States Up 1 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 182 million eggs during the week ending December 18, 1999. This was up 1 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 82 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

### Broiler Chicks Placed Up 1 Percent

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 145 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 18, 1999. Placements were up 1 percent from the comparable week in 1998. Cumulative placements from January 3, 1999, through December 18, 1999, were 7.11 billion, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 29-Jan-00 IS ESTIMATED AT 151.6 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 149.8 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 151.0 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 151.5 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 58.89 CENTS PER POUND.

**WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS** The market tone was generally steady. Offerings easily adequate. Buyer needs seasonally fair at best. Demand was light by stores and fairly good by fast food. Floor stocks adequate to heavier than desired where distributors tried to keep stocks as close as possible until after the holidays.

**SOUTHERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS** Trade sentiment was reported as steady in both local and shipping channels. Retail demand continued to be seasonally light. Supplies were at least adequate for the irregular interest. In the parts structure, breast items and wings were usually available but steady, thigh meat was well balanced to short, balance of items were steady. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were mostly desirable.

**MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS** Trade sentiment on whole fryers was generally steady. Additional product offerings were mostly adequate for the limited trade interest. A few receivers in Michigan and Ohio reported being short on light weight wogs and whole birds. Retail movement was slow to light. Food service demand was fair to good. Floor stocks were adequate to ample, sizes desirable to instances heavier than desired. In the parts complex, offerings were at least fully adequate with the St. Louis area noting fairly good movement on wings. Supplies of all items were adequate or available. Features noted in the St. Louis area on split breasts at \$.89 and \$.99, in Chicago, boneless/skinless breasts at \$1.59 and \$1.69. Trade sentiment was steady to weak on breast items, steady on all other parts.

**NORTHEAST REGION BROILER/FRYERS** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was still light and unaggressive. Offerings were adequate on heavy sizes and usually fully adequate on lighter sizes. Retail and distributive movement was at best fair. The market tone was generally steady. In the parts market, supplies of breast items and wings were fully adequate, dark meat items were clearing but also reported as about sufficient for full requirements.

**DELMARVA BROILER/FRYER MARKET** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was generally noted as seasonally slow and about as expected entering the holiday. Seller offerings were adequate to tight on the heavier weights; ample on the smaller sizes. Live supplies were moderate; weights varied and were mostly desirable to light. Processing schedules were moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were 1 cent higher at 55 to 67 cents. Trade sentiment was mostly steady. In the parts complex, leg items were adequate and in best balance. Breast cuts were fully adequate to ample. Supplies of wings varied, but were fully adequate overall.

\*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

	BRANDED U.S. GRADE A
RANGE	53-66
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	56.83
NO. OF BOXES	9,769

\*6 of 8 plants reporting.

DECEMBER 21, 1999

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

DECEMBER 22, 1999

ITEM	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD
	(000)	RANGE		AVG
BREAST - B/S	290	118.00-178.00	120-130	128.14
TENDERLOINS	190	105.00-160.00	125-130	139.53
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
FRONT HALVES	152	51.00-63.00	-	61.16
LEGS	46	25.00-34.00	25-26	26.17
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	288	16.50-20.00	17-18	17.77
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	861	20.00-22.00	20-21	20.71
WINGS (WHOLE)	81	72.00-75.00	-	73.52
WINGS (CUT)	305	80.00-85.00	-	84.18
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS  
TRADING FOR DECEMBER 21, 1999 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE
33.75-41.50	39.47

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

ITEM	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD
	(000)	RANGE		AVG
BREAST - B/S	417	120.00-178.00	120-135	127.56
TENDERLOINS	275	135.00-164.00	135	159.08
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
FRONT HALVES	105	58.00-61.00	-	59.00
LEGS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	206	15.00-19.00	17-18	17.16
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	988	20.00-21.00	20	20.04
WINGS (WHOLE)	121	68.00-72.00	69-71	70.53
WINGS (CUT)	425	85.00-91.00	85-87	86.73
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS  
TRADING FOR DECEMBER 22, 1999 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
36.50 - 40.00	38.08	38.89

**NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS** Trucklot buying interest was light with traders cautious and watching further market developments. Retail and distributive was seasonally slow. Trade sentiment was no better than steady on breast items and wings, balance of items were usually reported as steady.

\*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL  
TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

DECEMBER 21, 1999

DECEMBER 22, 1999

ITEM	CURRENT NEG	WTD	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	AVG**	
BREAST - B/S	125-130	137.59	338,960
TENDERLOINS	125	125.15	109,080
BREAST - WITH RIBS	59-60	66.37	217,720
BREAST - LINE RUN	59	59.78	81,120
LEGS	26-27	30.89	227,080
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	18.48	410,996
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	31.17	114,800
THIGHS	21-22	28.72	100,800
B/S THIGHS	70-71	75.20	49,530
WINGS (WHOLE)	71-72	80.17	272,680
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.05	76,000
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	40-45	39.86	53,965
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	63.93	87,280

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

\* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

\*\* WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

**ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)**

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG		AVG	
	12/22	12/21	12/20	12/17	WTS	ACTUAL	WTS	12/13
ALA	3,238	3,784	3,898	3,676	5.06	4.95	3,768	5.17
ARK	5,077	5,154	5,224	4,874	4.84	4.63	4,657	4.94
DELMARVA	2,416	2,444	2,473	2,356	5.25	5.06	2,038	5.22
KY-LA-TN	1,914	1,921	1,806	1,973	5.06	4.24	1,727	4.49
MISS	2,793	2,417	2,781	3,302	5.07	4.93	2,566	5.10
NC	2,590	2,610	2,542	2,694	5.95	5.54	2,458	5.90
TEXAS	2,185	2,221	2,096	2,726	4.94	4.54	2,141	4.86
TOTAL	20,213	20,551	20,571	21,601	5.13	4.84	19,355	5.11
MON-WED 61,721(A)	59,030(A)							

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 22-Dec 99

is estimated to be 30,241,000 up 4.12 percent from a week

ago and up 4.6 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 29,044,000; last year 28,922,000)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY**

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	78-82
ROASTERS 4# & UP	80-90
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	88
DUCKS	125
RABBITS-WHOLE	309
RABBITS-CUT UP	326

**SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY****DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	104
	ICE PACK	92-98
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	104-107
	DRY PACK	112
HENS OVER 5#	DRY PACK	98
	ICE PACK	91
DUCKS		149-162

**ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER**

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 25-Dec-99

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	12/25/99 (1)	12/18/99
THOUSAND HEAD		
BRO-FRY	120,987 (2)	156,830
LT HENS	1,717	2,153
HVY HENS	1,170	1,513
CHECK TOTAL	123,874	160,496

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 25-Dec-99 is 137.9 million head compared to 108.1 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 122.5 million head or 15.4 million less than estimated available. For week of 01-Jan-00 the estimated available is 140.4 million head.

**COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT**

(IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	12/20/99	12/13/99	12/21/98	12/20/99	12/13/99	12/21/98
PACIFIC						
COAST	6,546	6,928	9,099	13,329	13,543	6,867
LOS						
ANGELES	989	318	447	4,105	4,181	2,110

**HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES**

FOR 12/21/99

	LO	HI	AVG		LO	HI	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.40	.80	.59	HEAVY FOWL ea.	.75	3.50	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	.45	.50	.49	MIXED FOWL ea.	.70	2.25	-
BANTAMS lb.	.15	.45	.28	BANTAMS ea.	1.00	3.25	-
BROILERS lb.	.75	.85	.83	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	1.00	3.00	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.30	1.15	.78	ROOSTERS ea.	2.00	2.50	-
GEESE lb.	.40	.50	.45	GEESE ea.	-	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	.60	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	.45	1.60	.93	DUCKS ea.	.75	1.00	-
RABBITS lb.	.60	1.45	1.11	RABBITS ea.	1.00	2.00	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	.75	2.50	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	-	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	5.00	8.00	-
SILKIES ea.	-	3.25	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-				

TOTAL COOPS 113

**CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS**

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 1999

HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	RANGE
		60-63
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	66

**MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City**

Cents per pound for the week ending December 17, 1999

	Whole		Legs	Necks, Backs	Livers/	Hens
	Chickens	Breasts				
			W/ Thighs	& Wings	Gizzards	
RAYON						
Low	55.85	112.68	78.38	24.49	5.88	51.44
High	57.81	127.37	88.18	29.39	7.35	51.44
Mostly	56.83	127.37	83.28	24.49	7.35	51.44

**SAN JUAN**

Low	55.85	102.88	68.59	22.05	4.90	48.99
High	57.81	122.47	83.28	31.84	8.82	48.99
Mostly	56.83	117.58	73.48	24.49	5.88	48.99

**NEW SAN JUAN**

Low	55.85	117.58	73.48	24.49	5.88	51.44
High	56.83	127.37	88.18	29.39	7.35	51.44
Mostly	56.83	122.47	83.28	24.49	7.35	51.44

**BECERRA**

Low	56.34	107.78	71.04	22.05	4.90	48.99
High	58.30	132.27	78.38	34.29	9.80	48.99
Mostly	56.83	122.47	73.48	26.94	7.35	48.99

**USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS.****POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES**

Washington, DC	Voice	(202)720-6911	Grover T. Hunter (Chief)
	Fax	(202)720-2403	
Atlanta, GA	Voice	(404)562-5850	Johnny Freeman (Officer-In-Charge)
	Fax	(404)562-5875	
Jackson, MS	Recorded	(404)562-5856	Gary Brown (Officer-In-Charge)
	Voice	(601)965-4662	
Des Moines, IA	Fax	(601)965-4661	Mary L. Adkins (Officer-In-Charge)
	Voice	(515)284-4471	
Bell, CA	Fax	(515)284-4468	Jim Derby (Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(515)284-4545	
	Voice	(323)269-4154	
	Fax	(323)269-5926	
	Recorded	(323)260-4676	